

CRITIQUE OF CS RECORDS I AND II COURSES

3C19 HQS.  
X5885

25X1A

The following notions are presented in no particular order of importance, by my standards at least.

The courses might well prove most effective given at a particular stage in an individual's CS career, and this possibility could be better explored and publicized. For those serving in a support capacity, my feeling is that within the first 6 months but not before the first 3 months after EOD into Clandestine Services would be an ideal time to take these courses. After 5 years' tenure in CS, I found little of the course content new to me--but that which was, was both important and useful. It should be much more useful to someone having the beginnings of an appreciation of CS structure and function and needing the basics of how to deal with and extract information from that same CS.

There exist CS components so leanly staffed that any consideration of training for one of their number is a matter weighty in the extreme. It might, therefore, be well to group students in the courses' individual sessions according to an estimate of their rate of progress given their CS experience. Then divisions known to be touchy about losing anyone's services for an entire week could be presented with the possibility of the courses' taking less time than this.

The courses might gain in strength (certainly in thoroughness) by emphasizing a bit more the tracing facilities available in such smaller components as CCS, DCS, and doubtless others that I wot not of. How to trace through these components, and when to, and under what circumstances a hit would most likely be made, are relatively obscure but helpful items of information to have at hand in the course of running a trace.

30 June 1971

Comments on CS Records Courses I and II

Due to very limited exposure previously to Headquarters practices and procedures, particularly those concerning the CS records system, it goes without saying that the CS Records Courses I and II were enlightening as well as extremely worthwhile in terms of my present assignment. Apart from my primary aim of learning the actual mechanics involved in research work, there was additional benefit gained from the explanatory talks given by individuals from the different offices whose various services and/or records are available to the researcher.

25X1A

The practical exercise involving [REDACTED] was a well-chosen and useful one, not excluding the small lesson in frustration at the inconclusive end, and perhaps the only possible drawback which might be noted was my own feeling of not having quite as much time in writing the final dispatch as I would have liked, indeed a minor point. Overall, I believe the two CS Records Courses provided me with a working knowledge of the CS records system as well as with invaluable tools for the performance of my duties.

25X1A

[REDACTED]